

Constantine and me

Constantine was, therefore, entirely rehabilitated and the validity of the consecration of Gudianus was unimpaired.

Then follows the Council of Arles in 314. With a Drbearance rarely displayed by a Roman emperor to tolerate and unreasoning opposition, Constantine yielded to the clamour of the Donatists for a new council on a broader and more authoritative scale than the commission of Italian and Gallic bishops. But little disappointment and disgust are plainly to be seen in his letter to the proconsul of Africa. Constantine began by saying that he had fully expected that the election of a commission of bishops "of the very highest probity and competence" would have earned universal respect, but he found, however, that the enemies of Cæcilianus were as obstinate as ever, for they declared that the bishops had simply shut themselves up in a room and judged in case according to their personal predilections, 'they clamoured for another council: he would find a meeting place which was to meet at Arles*./Kilianus, therefore, was to see that the public posting service throughout Africa and Mauritania was placed at the disposal of Cæcilianus and his party and of Donatus'; if his party, that they might travel with despatch across into Spain by the quickest passage. Then, the letter continued:

"You will provide each separate Bishop with sufficient messengers entitling him to necessaries *in /wfr (tntton) x teras*) that he may arrive at Arles by the 14th of August, and you will also give all the bishops their umlars and that, before they leave their diocese, they tint it